

Tolls? *Fuhgeddaboutit!*

Leaving Brooklyn as this correspondent does either passing through, or returning home to Queens, one of the several bold slogans on signs posted by Borough President Marty Markowitz states, *Fuhgeddaboutit!* Certainly that same phrase applies to the Quinnipiac Poll result that queried New Yorkers about their support for tolls on the free East River Bridges. Two-thirds opposed what we call the “Congestion Tax” and the opposition exceeded 70% or approached it in the three boroughs – The Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens – with free bridge access to Manhattan.

According to the Q-Poll released [July 29, 2009](#), 77% from Queens 72% from The Bronx and 69% from Brooklyn opposed tolls (“In order to limit future fare increases, would you support or oppose placing tolls on the free East River bridges?”).

While the use of the words, “congestion pricing” pared with “entering certain areas of Manhattan” produced less but still majority opposition, one could reasonably expect that if that question said south of 60th or 86th Streets, the opposition numbers would be consistent with tolls. We urge future pollsters to be less vague when they poll using “congestion pricing” rather than the vague use in the poll. As we know, the last congestion pricing proposal did not charge those who would cross into Manhattan via Port Authority bridges or tunnels.

While some congestion tax proponents seized on the language as the key to their ability to imposing the unfair, inequitable and inefficient tax on New Yorkers, they should not take heart because we know from two – almost three – years of debate and discourse that New Yorkers have much more smarts than the taxers would allow them.